

PASTOR HELD IN MURDER CASE TRIES TO DIE WASHINGTON VANDAL SLASHES PICTURE IN CAPITOL

WEATHER—Cloudy to-night; Thursday rain or snow.

NIGHT EDITION.

The



World.

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"Circulation Books Open to All."

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NIGHT VANDAL IN CAPITOL AT WASHINGTON SLASHES A PICTURE OF HISTORIC EVENT

Mutilates "The Battle of Lake Erie," Largest Painting in Government Collection.

BIG STRIP CUT OUT.

Canvas Found on Floor and Powell's Work of Art Can Be Saved—No Clue to Culprit.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Vandals got into the Capitol last night and mutilated "The Battle of Lake Erie," the largest canvas of the collection of paintings which adorns the walls of the corridors and stairways. A strip two feet long and three inches wide was cut from the lower left hand corner of the painting at a place where the artist had shown a great deal of detail. The strip was found close by upon the floor. It can be replaced.

The mutilator took a knife, reached to the height of a man standing and drew a downward twice in the shape of a parabola.

Another slash three feet long was made, but did not remove any portion of the painting.

An elevator conductor discovered the act of vandalism shortly after 10 o'clock last night and reported it to the Capitol police. He picked up the piece of canvas from the stone steps. No clue as to the perpetrator of the outrage has been found. It is supposed to have been either inspired by malice or the act of a crank.

The painting is on one of the walls of the east stairway leading to the Senate chamber and faces a landing on the stairs midway between the Senate and gallery floors.

The big canvas was ordered from W. H. Powell, an associate of the National Academy, in 1855 and was completed in 1871. Mr. Powell had already painted for the Capitol the famous canvas "The Discovery of the Mississippi," "The Battle of Lake Erie," represents Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry passing from the disabled flagship Lawrence in the midst of the battle in a rowboat to the Niagara.

HELP THE WHITE WINGS HAVE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY.

Every householder, according to Commissioner Edwards, can help the Department of Streets-Cleaning give a holiday to all its employees on Monday by putting out all ashes, garbage and rubbish on Sunday. Monday is usually a heavy day with the department. Last Monday 14,461 loads of refuse were removed, against 2,414 on Sunday. Foremen were instructed to notify householders along routes of collection of the Christmas holiday move.

The next snowstorm will cause a new experiment of piling snow in the center of the street. The widening of Fifth avenue makes it possible for that thoroughfare and Commissioner Edwards holds the plan should improve traffic conditions, so that persons who are shopping may drive directly to the curb, instead of having to go over snow piles.

Is It Not the Class of People with Earning-Power and Spending-Power Who Are Most Interested in Winter Vacations, Steamship and Overland Travel?

The number of Winter Resort, Steamship and Railroad advertisements printed in New York newspapers last Sunday was as follows:

SUNDAY WORLD.....	186 Ads.
Sunday Herald.....	41 Ads.
Sunday Times.....	34 Ads.
Sunday Sun.....	20 Ads.
Sunday Tribune.....	15 Ads.
and the two other New York Sunday newspapers printed 8 such ads COMBINED	

It will be readily seen, therefore, that the Sunday World, printed 38 MORE Winter Resort, &c., ads. than ALL THE 6 OTHER New York Sunday newspapers ADDED TOGETHER.

A Great Tribute to the Class of Results

World Ads. Bring

TAFT WITH TROWEL HELPS BLIND GIRL LAY CORNERSTONE

President and Miss Keator Chief Figures at a Unique Ceremony.

BARNES EARLY CALLER.

Chairman Koenig and Other Politicians Get Confabs During Busy Day.

President William H. Taft was the leading figure in a unique ceremony this afternoon. With Miss Grace Keator, a blind woman, as his assistant, he laid the cornerstone of the first settlement house exclusively for blind persons ever projected. Surrounded by blind men, women, boys and girls, all smiling and happy, the President was in his best mood and expressed himself as more pleased with his participation in the cornerstone laying than with anything else connected with his visit to New York.

The institute is at No. 111 East Fifty-ninth street and will have cost, when completed, \$100,000. It will be a six-story structure.

Joseph H. Choate presided at the exercises this afternoon. Speeches were delivered by President Taft, Gov. Dix, Dr. John H. Finley, president of the College of the City of New York, and W. L. Scandlin, the blind president of the Blind Men's Self Improvement Club.

Among the distinguished citizens who assisted at the ceremony were the Right Rev. Bishop Green, Ralph Menner and Mrs. Lavelle, all of whom offered prayers; Seth Low, Jacob H. Schiff and McJannet, C. F. Roe. The President, being skilled in the laying of cornerstones, did the job with neatness and dispatch. His address was very brief.

MISS KEATOR A REMARKABLE BLIND WOMAN.

Miss Keator, to whom the honor was given of assisting President Taft in the actual laying of the stone, is the first blind woman in this country to earn a living as a stenographer.

Tired by his strenuous speechmaking in two boroughs last night, President Taft slept in today at the home of his brother, Henry W. Taft, No. 35 West Forty-eighth street. He breakfasted after the members of his brother's family had finished, and then received his first caller of the day, Melville E. Stone, general manager of the Associated Press.

Succeeding callers included several politicians of prominence, and their visits had something to do with the New York delegation to the next National Republican Convention, Otto Rannard, who in a recent speech declared that the New York delegation would go to Chicago pledged to the renomination of President Taft, was the first caller after Mr. Stone.

BARNES AMONG OTHER POLITICAL CALLERS.

William E. Hawk, President of the Ohio Society, called to talk over the banquet of the society, which is to be held at the Waldorf on Jan. 27, with the President as the guest of honor. Others who had engagements were Samuel Koenig, Chairman of the New York County Republican Committee, and William Barnes Jr., Chairman of the Republican State Committee.

Michael J. Mulqueen called to invite the President to the reception to Cardinal Farley on Jan. 25. President Taft said he would attend if his engagements permit, and promised a definite reply to-night. A Brisbane also visited the President.

President Taft today was asked to exercise his good offices to end the war between Italy and Turkey. The plea for mediation was made by Dr. Luman Abbott, editor of The Outlook, of which Theodore Roosevelt is contributing editor, and Dr. Mary Eddy, famous woman surgeon who is engaged in medical work in Turkey. The President gave no indication of his probable course. Dr. Abbott pointed out to him that under the Hague Conference, any nation is empowered to offer to act as a mediator to end a war.

"I took no message to President Taft from Col. Roosevelt," said Dr. Abbott, when he left the President.

Photograph of "The Battle of Lake Erie" Cut by Vandal in Capitol at Washington



PERRY'S VICTORY

DETECTIVE A "GOAT" IN MAYOR'S ATTACK ON POLICE HEADS

Subordinate Who Made Report on Young Eagen Is "Downgraded" to Uniform.

Police Commissioner Waldo was summoned to the City Hall by Mayor Gaynor today. They had a half-hour conference presumably over the case of William Eagen, a Brooklyn boy, arrested for burglary, but charged in court as a vagrant and who, the Mayor thinks, is a much abused lad. Reports in the case forwarded by Inspector Hughes and approved by Deputy Commissioner Dougherty, around the fire of the Mayor, who wrote a letter saying a lot of red-hot things about the police and clamoring for immediate justice for Eagen.

After the conference today Commissioner Waldo was asked to make a statement. He laughed. "Not a word," he said as he hurried to Station Island.

Mayor Gaynor when asked concerning the conference inquired if the Commissioner had made any statement. He was informed that he had not. The Mayor said that charges had been preferred against Detective Barry, who had made the first report following the arrest of Eagen, and that the officer had been transferred from the Detective Bureau and ordered to do patrol duty in uniform.

When the Mayor was asked if by reason of accepting the alleged false report made by Barry "officers higher up might now have charges preferred against them," the Mayor said that they certainly were not making reports of the Eagen case based on the reports of subordinates and that the "worst part of it was that they were so glib" as to take the reports of the subordinates for granted.

When informed that a report was current to the effect that Commissioner Waldo was likely to resign, the Mayor said it was news to him.

Charges will be preferred against the other detectives concerned in the Eagen case.

It was evident from the attitude of the Mayor that he considers that sufficient punishment will have been meted out when the detectives concerned in the case have been dropped out of that in all probability the present personnel of the executive in the Police Department will not be disturbed.

FOUR COURT OFFICERS BOWLED OVER A WOMAN.

Mrs. Elizabeth Berney Went After a Summons and Got Into Trouble.

Mrs. Elizabeth Berney of No. 54 West One Hundred and Twenty-seventh street is nearly six feet tall and weighs approximately 125 pounds. Withal she is a very pretty woman and well proportioned. Likewise, according to Capt. Dunning and the squad of officers in Harlem Police Court, she is stronger than Sandoz.

Mrs. Berney visited the court today for the purpose of getting a summons for some one. She insisted on seeing Magistrate Corrigan while he was busy with another case and the court officers refused her. At one time she had four of them bowled over on their backs. Finally, the court clerk from, with the assistance of a couple of detectives, pushed her into the detention pen and locked the door.

She slept peacefully until nearly 2 o'clock this afternoon when she was awakened before Magistrate Corrigan and questioned. Her memory of what had happened in the morning was hazy. She apologized profusely when told she had been rude and was allowed to depart.

PICKPOCKET QUEEN'S BABY EXCLUDED FROM HER TRIAL.

Three Jurors Dismissed When They Say Their Sympathies Would Be Affected.

Mrs. Minnie Woods of No. 61 East One Hundred and Eleventh street, known to the police as a "pickpocket queen," pleaded guilty to the arrest of Assistant District Attorney Weller and Justice O'Sullivan when she went before a jury for trial in General Sessions today. She had a little baby in her arms. She was made to stand in the room in care of a nurse.

For several days while she has been waiting for her case to be called, the woman has been sitting among the spectators but no baby was visible. The appearance of the baby struck Mr. Weller as a "deliberate effort to work up sympathy." He asked the jurors if the baby would affect their sympathies and three said it would. They were promptly excused.

The woman's present trial is on the charge of stealing a pocketbook from Mrs. Maria Russo of No. 154 Madison avenue in a Third Avenue store. Justice O'Sullivan declared on her last conviction that he would try to see that she got the heaviest sentence possible next time.

WATCH FOR DEADLY COBRA. MAN-KILLER ON STEAMER.

Crew of German Vessel in Terror After One of Their Number Is Attacked by Serpent.

BOSTON, Dec. 20.—A constant guard was provided for today during the unloading of the German steamship Rattenburg to prevent fatality among the longshoremen and stevedores because of a poisonous cobra, which on the voyage from Calcutta killed one member of the crew and reduced the remainder to a state of almost terror, was still loose aboard the ship.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRL TAKES QUEER DOSE AND QUICKLY DIES

Fannie Platt Van Cott, Sixteen Years Old, Expires Before Physician Arrives.

Fannie Platt Van Cott, the sixteen-year-old daughter and only child of Platt Van Cott, a retired Deputy Fire Chief of No. 21 Madison street, Brooklyn, died in the Girls' High School, Nostrand avenue and Hudson street, Brooklyn, today after drinking from a glass in which she had poured a mixture. Coroner's Physician Wuest will perform an autopsy to discover if the young girl committed suicide.

The girl was a pupil in the classroom of Miss Cora H. Clark. Shortly before noon she requested permission to leave the room and borrowed a glass from the teacher. She said she wanted to take some medicine.

A few minutes later Miss Rachel E. Hyman, a teacher, heard groans as she passed the lavatory. Looking in the door, she saw the girl on the floor. Miss Van Cott was carbonic and a neighbor called and died before the arrival of a physician. A bottle Miss Hyman saw in the lavatory was not recovered.

Dr. Joseph S. Edwards, who was called in from the neighborhood, could not say what had caused the girl's death. Dr. W. L. Effer, the principal, reported to Miss Van Cott's parents that he believed she had died from natural causes.

After the Coroner was notified, and Dr. Wuest was ordered to perform an autopsy. It was said the girl had been working about her studies. She planned to have a Christmas party at her home tomorrow night. She had entered the high school at the age of thirteen.

Miss Van Cott would have graduated with her class on Jan. 25. Her papers were marked a few days ago and she was on the principal's list to graduate. She was short and fat, fair haired, but of a quiet, timid disposition and had few friends. What motive she might have had to end her life is declared to be a profound mystery by her parents.

WEDDED TWO DAYS, DIES.

New York Man and Wilmington Woman Married at His Deathbed.

According to The Evening World, WILMINGTON, Del., Dec. 20.—William J. Martin of New York City, who was married Sunday night to Miss Martha A. Ballance at her home, No. 30 Washington street, died last night after a long illness. At the time of the marriage it was believed that Mr. Martin would not live long, and this fact entered the marriage.

REV. RICHESON FOUND DYING FROM ATTEMPT TO TAKE HIS LIFE

Pastor Waiting Trial Discovered Bleeding to Death and Surgeons Perform Quick Operation to Save Him.

JAGGED PIECE OF TIN USED TO CUT HIMSELF.

Act May Cause Inquiry Into Sanity of Minister Accused of Killing Young Avis Linnell.

(Special to The Evening World.)

BOSTON, Dec. 20.—The Rev. Clarence V. T. Richeson, the accused slayer of Avis Linnell, attempted suicide in the Charles Street Jail, today, inflicting such dangerous wounds in the groin that an operation had to be immediately performed to save his life. The operation resulted in the emasculation of the Baptist pastor. A ragged piece of tin was employed by the Rev. Richeson in his attempt to end his life.

The jail physician stated that Richeson would recover, barring complications. District-Attorney Pelletier in an official statement said that the trial of Richeson for murder would begin on Jan. 15, the date originally set.

In legal circles it was stated today that some action may be taken before the trial to ascertain the sanity of the accused clergyman. Whether the speed with which Massachusetts justice has acted in the Linnell case, coupled with the failure of his counsel to obtain a delay of the trial, as well as the humiliating change from the pulpit to the prison cell, with the possibility of the death chair as the end, acted upon the mind of the young minister and instigated this morning's act, were among the conjectures discussed in this city.

Attendants in the jail heard groans coming from the clergyman's cell about 2 o'clock this morning. The groans were followed by a scream of pain.

The guards rushed to the cell and asked the prisoner what was the trouble.

"I've cut myself! I'm bleeding to death!" he gasped.

His cries of distress awakened the entire prison, and the news was shouted from cell to cell that the clergyman had tried to kill himself.

MINISTER MA' CRUDE KNIFE OF PIECE OF TIN.

The prison doctor was summoned. A crude knife had been made to stand the flux of blood before his arrival. The physician saw at once that the Rev. Richeson had inflicted a dangerous wound. He had made a rude knife of the piece of tin and sharpened it on the sill of his cell window.

Richeson was borne from his cell to the hospital apartment in the jail. The prison physician despatched a messenger for the best surgical skill that could be obtained in Boston. The operation necessary was one of the most delicate and dangerous known to surgery.

Less than an hour after the prisoner had attempted his life the doctor began to arrive at the jail in taxicabs and carriages. Dr. Briggs, Assistant Surgeon and Lathrop performed the operation.

Before the operation was performed William A. Morse, one of Richeson's counsel, was notified and hurried to the prison. Philip H. Dunbar soon joined Mr. Morse. Attorney Lee and Harrison, the clergyman's Virginia lawyers, left Boston yesterday to spend Christmas at home.

When the two Boston lawyers got to the jail their client was on the operating table. They had had no opportunity to talk to him, but they gave out the statement that they were sure he had not attempted suicide.

A RELEASED PRISONER GAVE FIRST TIP TO THE PUBLIC.

No statement of any sort was made, however, until after a prisoner who had been released from the jail reported what had happened. The pastor's counsel and the representatives of the District-Attorney's office had sought to keep the remarkable happening secret.

At 10 o'clock, four hours after the operation had been performed, Assistant

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